

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY EA:RLSNEIDER:AVM

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

EA - AMBASSADOR INGERSOLL

EA/J - MR. ERICSON

EA - MR. HUMMEL

EB - MR. KATZ

S/S - TRPICKERING

S/S - MR. PICKERING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 240797

EXDIS - FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, JA, US

SUBJ: U.S. POLICY ACTIONS TOWARD JAPAN ON OIL

REFS: A) TOKYO 15666; B) TOKYO 15826; C) TOKYO 15827

1. WHILE WE MUCH APPRECIATE THOUGHTFUL SUGGESTIONS IN REF (A) AND CONTINUING CLOSE CONTACT WITH GOJ ON MIKI TRIP, WE SEE NO POINT IN PRESSURING GOJ TO HOLD THE LINE ON MIDEAST POLICY. FROM SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH GOJ LEADERSHIP DURING HIS VISIT TO TOKYO AND OTHER CONTACTS HERE WITH YASUKAWA, JAPANESE ARE FULLY AWARE OF US POSITION AND OUR FIRM VIEW THAT TO SUBMIT TO ARAB PRESSURE AND INDEED BLACKMAIL IMPEDES PROSPECTS FOR MIDEAST SETTLEMENT AND INDEED RELIEF FROM OIL EMBARGO.

2. OUR POSITION IN NO WAY, AS SECRETARY EMPHASIZED PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY, SHOULD BE CONSTRUED AS LACK OF SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING FOR DIFFICULT ECONOMIC IMPACT
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AND POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES ON JAPAN OF OIL EMBARGO.

3. WE RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT RIGHT OF GOJ TO PURSUE ITS OWN SENSE OF ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS IN THIS DIFFICULT

SITUATION. BUT, GOJ SHOULD BY THIS TIME HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT WE COULD AGREE THAT THEIR STATEMENT OR MIKI'S TRIP -- PROMISING ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION OR EXTOLLING VIRTUES OF JAPANESE "TILT TO THE ARABS" -- WILL CONTRIBUTE

TO MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. (FYI. BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT RATE MIKI'S PROCLIVITIES FOR RESPONSIBLE ACTION TOO HIGH. END FYI.)

4. ON OTHER HAND, WE DO NOT WISH TO PRESUME TO ADVISE JAPANESE ANY FURTHER ON HOW TO PURSUE THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS ON OIL QUESTION. VERY FRANKLY, IF WE DID, WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO DISPUTE STRONGLY BOTH TIMING OF MIKI TRIP AND MESSAGE HE WILL CARRY AS SET FORTH REF (B). WHILE WE HAVE DIFFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST TACTICS, WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO PERMIT THIS DIFFERENCE TO IMPAIR OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP AND YOU SHOULD PURSUE NORMAL CONTACTS WITH GOJ IN THIS CONTEXT.

5. ON BASIS ABOVE, YOU SHOULD THEREFORE:

A) PROVIDE NO FURTHER GUIDANCE OR EXPRESSION OF US VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST TACTICS.

B) PROVIDE NO FURTHER RESPONSE TO FOUR QUESTIONS RAISED BY OKAWARA (PARA 5, REF B). YOUR RESPONSES WERE RIGHT ON LINE. (FYI. WE DO NOT WISH TO GET DRAWN INTO DISCUSSIONS OF NEGOTIATING POSITIONS AT THIS STAGE, NOR TO HAVE MIKI NEGOTIATE ON OUR BEHALF. END FYI.)

C) KEEP IN TOUCH WITH GOJ ON STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OIL EMBARGO. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE JAPANESE EXPECTATION OF 25-30 CUT IN OIL DELIVERIES WITH OUR ESTIMATES OF IMPACT OF CURRENT ARAB OIL PRODUCTION CUTBACK (CUTBACK OF 25-30 OF ARAB OIL IMPORTS, WHICH ABOUT 42 OF TOTAL IMPORTS, SHOULD
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RESULT IN CUT OF 10-12 TO 15 OF TOTAL IMPORTS). VISITS HERE BY GOJ OFFICIALS ON THIS QUESTION COULD BE HELPFUL.

D) CONTINUE TO DISCUSS ENERGY R & D AGREEMENT WITHOUT REPEAT WITHOUT APPEARING OVERANXIOUS.

6. IF GOJ HAS EVIDENCE OF DIVERSION OF OIL BY MAJORS, WHICH COULD EXPLAIN IN PART DISCREPANCY IN PARA (C) ABOVE, WE WILL OF COURSE BE WILLING TO TAKE THIS UP.

7. WE ARE PREPARED TO FOREGO SMALL GOJ SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO US FORCES IF GOJ PRESSES THIS POINT, EVEN THOUGH SOFA IMPLIES CONTINUED SUPPLY. KISSINGER

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